

Foursquare World

SEPTEMBER, 1984

ADVANCE

CIA. MEX. DE AVIACION

the builder
the shepherd
the helper
the entrepreneur
the President
for 40 years

Honoring
Dr. Rolf K. McPherson

JESUS CHRIST THE SAME

Written by Janice Pedersen,
Editor

Interviewed by Daniel Brown
Senior Youth Pastor
Van Nuys, California, Foursquare Church

SAVIOUR

Faith Against All Odds

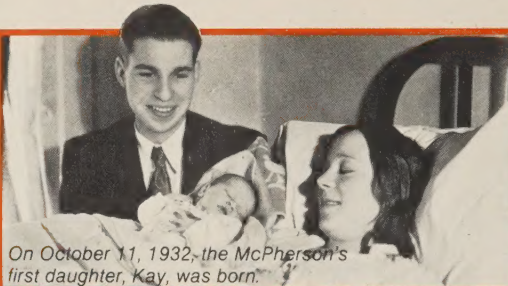
The world was shocked. September 27, 1944. Telephone lines jammed, cables flew, neighbors discussed it over the fence.

Aimee Semple McPherson, renowned woman preacher, minister of healing, evangelist in revivals worldwide attended by thousands, and builder of the evangelism center Angelus Temple in Los Angeles—was gone. Taken from this life.

Radio announcers broadcast the news. Newspapers rolled off the

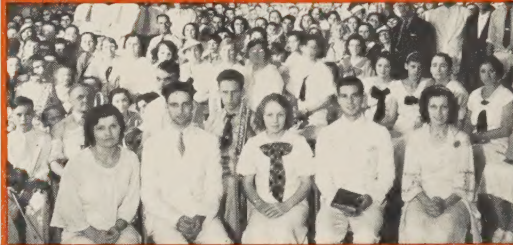
COVER PHOTO: Dr. Rolf K. McPherson, President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, prepares for a ministry trip in 1949.

ARTWORK: The art borders and drawings throughout this issue originally appeared in *Bridal Call Foursquare* issues of the 1930s.



On October 11, 1932, the McPherson's first daughter, Kay, was born.

Rolf and Sister McPherson at the International Foursquare Convention of 1944.



Rolf and Lorna De hold a tent meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1933.

presses: "SISTER AIMEE TO PREACH NO MORE;" "THOUSANDS MOURN FOR AIMEE."

But silently and alone, in Oakland, California, where the evangelist had preached her last sermon the night before, sat a young man. Thirty-one years old, what he had long feared had now happened. It was his turn, somehow, to carry on the work his mother had started. The decision had already been made. Rolf K. McPherson was now Pastor of Angelus Temple and President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

He could already hear the whisperings: "Angelus Temple won't last a day now that Sister is gone." "Too bad that the church she built will fold so quickly." He could already feel the eyes that would be upon him back in Los Angeles as he entered the doors of Angelus Temple—those people of the congregation, the U.S. churches under the Foursquare banner, LIFE Bible College, Radio Station KFSG, and the overseas missionary program. Young Rolf bowed his head to the floor. The weight was too much.

Forty years since that lonely day, the same man sat now across from Daniel Brown and me in the Presidential office. His hair had become a snowy white, and the lines in his face commended him for years of dedicated work.

We were there to discover what

had motivated that young man, years before, to take on a task others would have never even considered. And we wanted to know why he had stood by it for 40 years.

Daniel started our talk by inquiring of that September day in 1944, the moment Dr. McPherson knew the burden of the Foursquare Church would be on his shoulders.

Dr. McPherson took us back. "Actually, I had faced the same thing at a time when Mother was very ill, 10 years before her death. I pleaded to the Lord, 'Don't take her yet. Give us at least 10 more years to prepare.' I didn't feel I was ready to take the burden upon me.

"Her death was almost exactly 10 years to the time.

"But I never realized that God was going to take her then. I had been working with her quite extensively. She was sick, but it really looked like the Lord was going to raise her up again. She had just preached one of her finest sermons the night before, so it was a tremendous shock to have the Lord take her so quickly.

"I came back to Los Angeles with an overwhelming burden. Walking into Mother's office, I prayed, telling the Lord it was just too big. I couldn't carry it. We couldn't keep it going.

"And the Lord answered, 'I built the work, and I am able to keep it going.' He said it so positively that the whole burden just rolled off. Among other things, I had worried about the heavy financial responsibil-



The Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree was conferred upon Dr. McPherson in 1944 by Aimee Semple McPherson.

Dr. McPherson plays a key role in administering the laying on of hands in prayer during ordination services.



ity. But God said He would speak to the people and cause them to give. So my load was lifted."

I marveled at the courage of this man to take the responsibility—whether God had promised anything or not. Most of us would never have attempted such a feat. We would have thought the Lord's voice was "just us."

As soon as Sister McPherson's death was announced, predictions became rampant. "Angelus Temple will fall!" "The Foursquare churches won't survive!" What, in fact, did happen?

"A response came from the people," recalls Dr. McPherson, "even knowing how feeble I was in the position, that they rallied to help us. God gave us great favor with the people to know I was not another Aimee Semple McPherson. Every department began to pitch in. Departments grew, churches grew, pastors united. At the memorial service for Mother, the entire audience of over 5,000 people stood and pledged themselves to carry on the work. I would say the great percentage of those really came through in backing us. 35,000 people passed by the casket to pay their last respects."

What ultimately came about during this transition time

was the emerging of a full-fledged denomination. But the truth of the matter was that Aimee Semple McPherson never *planned* to form a church denomination. In fact, the cornerstone of Angelus Temple reads: "Dedicated Unto the Cause of Interdenominational and Worldwide Evangelism." By the same token, even Dr. McPherson flinches somewhat when the term "denomination" is used. He explains:

"I really think the reason why God brought mother to Los Angeles was to establish a headquarters church. But she didn't even know that, thinking of Angelus Temple as an evangelistic center. The Bible college was instated almost instantly, ministers started going out, and it was felt that the churches we were building should belong to something permanent. The congregations wanted to know that, if they gave their life, time and money to a church, someone would not come tomorrow and take it all away. So about 1930, the churches were tied together in a denominational sense.

"Even now the term 'denomination' is a little painful because we did not set out to be a denomination.

We actually set out to be a movement in step with how God was moving. We still don't want to get into the total mold of a denomination; however, we have to admit that to a great extent, we are."

So, Daniel asked, what makes Foursquare unique in this sense from other denominations?

"In terms of a movement," Dr. McPherson answered, giving it some thought as he talked, "we in the International Church offices are here to facilitate the individual ministries of our individual churches. We do not cast them into one mold. The greatest joy I have found is to help others. I loved to help Mother in her ministry. When she was taken, that was a blow. On the other hand, I have been able to help many young people go into the ministry, and have seen them succeed. So Headquarters has very much taken the view that we are to be a servant to the movement composed of churches, ministers and missionaries, and not a strict denomination as such."

Dr. McPherson's philosophy of a "helper" is seen in the

approach of Foursquare Missions International. Unlike many other denominations, our missionaries are sent with the purpose to train *nationals* to carry on the work. Thus, each missionary "works himself out of a job," enabling him to move on to another location.

Dr. McPherson leaned forward. "Today," he said, "the missionary in many cases is only like an adviser or counselor to the national church. As a result, for every missionary we have sent we could probably see a thousand national workers out there.

"This is revolutionary! I can remember when missionaries were geared to pastor a little mission of people, and they didn't want anyone touching them. But when they began to trust, God began to bless the

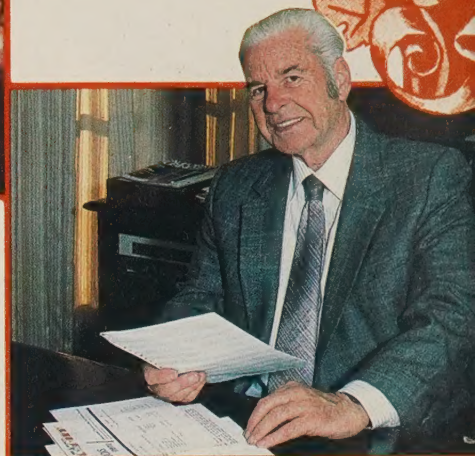
YESTERDAY, TODAY & FOREVER



JESUS CHRIST THE SAME

HEALER

Right: Dr. McPherson finds himself modeling traditional African clothing on an overseas ministry trip.
Below: The compassion of Christ is seen on Dr. McPherson's face during his trip to Korea in 1973.



Dr. McPherson celebrates 40 years of ministry as President this year.

nationals, and the souls saved multiplied.

"Moreover, we have second generations of nationals catching the missionary vision to travel into neighboring countries to establish churches. We are going to see growth that we never could have accomplished alone."

Foursquare's strong missionary vision is well known. But how can you not have such a vision when the President himself has visited areas of the world, and has seen people come with tears running down their faces, saying, "Thank you for sending missionaries. We wouldn't be here today. We would be terribly in sin, but you changed our whole lives."

How can you not have a vision when, shares Dr. McPherson, "You hit 10 or 15 countries, one after the other, and you see revival after revival, and multitudes of people in each place accepting Christ, and you realize we are in 48 countries! You rejoice, because you know it is working."

**"You know it is working!"
The Lord's promise had been proven.**

Forty years ago, a young man pleaded with God. His mother, the great renowned evangelist, had died. The world's eyes were focused on

her son, Dr. Rolf K. McPherson. Some waited silently. Some cheered him on. Others predicted failure for the organization.

God offered that young man a promise. Rolf took that promise, stood on it, and in 1984 he declares, "It is working!"

But 40 years ago, young Rolf didn't have any such proof. He couldn't have predicted what would happen. In spite of the odds, he not only took the burden, but he stuck with it. What was it, then, that enabled him to see Foursquare through?

First and foremost, God stayed true to His word. God kept the work going, and the finances came in.

Another part of the answer came in six words: "We learned to minister to people." The President had described his early days: "Even though mother spoke to great crowds, her ministry was very frequently one on one. People would come, and we, as children, would gather around. Maybe we saw some of the most drastic things—the sickest people were healed, the most down-and-outers were saved. Because of that, we learned to minister to people."

Another clue came from an article "The Heart of a Boy" in the June, 1928, issue of the *Bridal Call Foursquare*. As a young lad of 15, Rolf wrote: "There was once a Roman Emperor who had returned from a great and victorious battle. While a parade was being held in his honor, a little boy suddenly dashed out into the street right in front of the soldiers. When the Emperor saw him, he reached down with one hand and lifted the lad to his shoulder and rode on."

"'He may be your Emperor,' the lad explained to the soldiers, 'but he is my father.'"

"So, the world may call Aimee Semple McPherson the world's greatest evangelist; they may call her the builder of beautiful Angelus Temple, and the little Pastor of the biggest church in America; but she is my mother!

"And I am going to go out and join her and those who are helping her to win souls, and march beside her to help her in her work."

Love for God; love for people; love for his mother. Three key clues to Dr. McPherson's courage to shoulder the load. He had been raised well; Christian morals and ideals were instilled in his heart. Surely, I thought, this man has had no reason to question the validity of his life.

Why did Dr. Rolf K. McPherson take on impossible odds at his mother's passing? Because he knew it was not himself that would take on the burden. God took on the burden. And the proof becomes plain when Dr. McPherson looks at home base in the States and around the world—and sees it working.

Why has he given his life to the Foursquare Church for 40 years? Because he believes in the purpose and philosophy of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. And because God called a certain young man to carry on a work, and it was the least Dr. McPherson could

(Continued on p. 14)

ROLF'S OKLAHOMA BRIDE

By Ella Lou Clark



Rolf and Lorna De on an early date.



Mrs. McPherson today.



Rolf and Lorna De say their vows on July 21, 1931, with Rolf's mother presiding.

I always wanted to be involved as much as I could." That desire has drawn Lorna De McPherson, wife of President of K. McPherson, into a half-century active Foursquare ministry.

"This is the life He gave me!" This statement tells the story of a life lived in the forefront of Foursquare evangelism.

The Unexpected

The "big push" into activity involvement came when Founder and President Aimee Semple McPherson pointed her son, Rolf, to leadership as Vice President of the organization that was developing both in the United States and foreign countries.

Ella Clark serves with her husband as Associate Minister of Angelus Temple. She is also a member of the National Board of the United Foursquare Women.



This position of responsibility encompassed the young life of Mrs. Lorna De McPherson who had now become mother of two children.

But just when the feel for this new dedication was becoming comfortable to her, the unexpected happened. Six months after his appointment, Dr. McPherson's mother was taken out of this life to be with the Lord.

"I'll never forget that day," said Mrs. McPherson, "when the news reached us from Rolf in Oakland, California: MOTHER HAS DIED! The calendar read September, 1944. At first it was unbelievable—but so quickly the reality of what this would mean to us seized my heart. I was ready—not in my own understanding—but ready because God had been preparing me. The Holy Spirit had revealed to me that I must prepare my life for a new challenge. Yes, I knew now I must fulfill another

role.

"Just before

Rolf and I prepared to walk into the auditorium of Angelus Temple to conduct the first service following the funeral of his mother, he said to me, 'I have appointed you to be Vice President to serve with me to carry on the ministry of Foursquare evangelism.' I knew I could not do it myself. God, in a vision, said to me 'I have to have more of you!'"

In that vision, God showed pictures of what her life with her husband's new role would become. It was a time of great spiritual growth for the young 33-year-old wife.

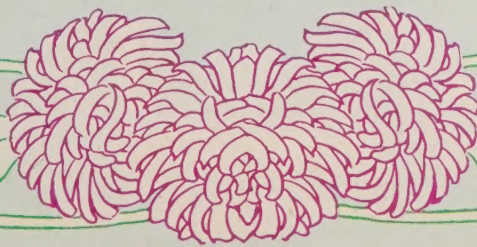
When Mrs. McPherson spoke of her husband, she was quick to say that she loved him very much. Her voice had that certain sound of memory as she talked of how that love formed in her heart the very first time they talked about a life together in Foursquare ministry.

The Romance

He was a young handsome boy attending a private school and coming home on the weekends to be with the youth of Angelus Temple.

She was a dedicated young girl from rural Texas County, Oklahoma. But it was in Wichita, Kansas, when she was 10 years old that little Lorna De first encountered Aimee Semple McPherson. The young evangelist was conducting tent and tabernacle meetings, growing in popularity as a "Pentecostal preacher."

Mrs. McPherson's dedication to make God the "Master" of her life came upon graduation from high school. "God moved in my heart," Mrs. McPherson shared, "and this moved me to make changes. The starting point was a change from a promising career in the business world for which I had planned to enter college. Now I was making plans to enter LIFE Bible College in California to become a handmaiden of the Lord." (Continued on p. 14)



I Remember When...



As a young man, Dr. McPherson (left) crafted and piloted model airplanes.

Dr. Leland B. Edwards Remembers...

"When I was a student at LIFE Bible College, Rolf and I would sometimes meet on Sunday mornings and fly his model airplanes. We would return in time for the Sunday morning worship service; he would go down the rampart to the platform with his mother, and I would sit in the student section of the auditorium. Students in those days were required to wear Foursquare arm bands and class caps. "One particular Sunday morning, one of Rolf's model airplanes got into a thermo and kept climbing and climbing until it went out of sight. So we had to wait for it to come down. Consequently, we arrived back a little late, and I didn't have time to go to the apartment to get my arm band and class cap. I entered the service without that proper dress. He entered the service, properly, and went to sit on the platform.

"Two days later, I was handed in school a white envelope containing the 'good news' that I had been reported as having improper dress. I was awarded four demerits and was duly reprimanded in the Dean's office. I retorted with the words, 'If I had skipped church and stayed in my apartment, I would not have had the blemish on my school record!'"

Dr. Edwards is Director of Foursquare Missions International.

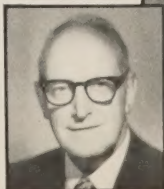


Dr. Guy P. Duffield Remembers...

"Some of my earliest memories of Dr. McPherson were of the times some of us used to play football with Rolf on the roof of LIFE Bible College in 1926. We always made it a point that, whenever the ball was thrown over the edge, we would send Rolf down to get it. We figured that he would be less likely to receive a stern reprimand if it had happened to hit someone down below! We "innocent" boys were quite willing to let him take the blame.

"Those who have known Dr. McPherson over the years have appreciated his very unique sense of humor. I recall that when I was pastoring with him in Angelus Temple, the telephone company changed the Temple's number. I had just made the announcement one Sunday morning that the new number was 484-1100. As I sat down beside Dr. McPherson, he leaned over and whispered, "484...sounds kind of cannibalistic, doesn't it?!" I never had any trouble remembering the new number after that."

Dr. Duffield is Professor at LIFE Bible College at Los Angeles.



Dr. McPherson and Dr. Herman take a leisurely sail in 1954.

Dr. McPherson chats with first granddaughter, Leslie, 3 years old in 1953.



COMMAND PERFORMANCE

By Dr. Rolf K. McPherson

Sister McPherson had died and the world turned to Rolf. Read the first sermon 31-year-old Rolf K. McPherson delivered, from his heart, upon entering his new duties as Pastor of Angelus Temple and President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

Iwant to thank you all for standing by so faithfully in this hour of the greatest test in my life. It is impossible for me

to thank you all personally; but I deeply appreciate all the help you have given. You have given because you love the Lord and love my mother and you love me in the Lord, and it gives me great confidence and strength in stepping out to do the will of God.

It has been said here, today, that now I am the "pastor of Angelus Temple." That is a responsible position and puts a lot of weight upon my shoulders. As you know, I now have a job in the office and it would be impossible for me to do all the preaching. But I want to be able to help you meet your problems, and I will consider it a compliment if you will come and let me pray with you. And if I can advise you in the Lord, through the Scripture, I will be happy to do so.

She Loved the World

Through all my life, I have been anxious to help Mother. I have loved her so much always, and it was always a pleasure to help her. I never considered it a job, never considered the salary, but I wanted to help her because I loved her. I loved her because she loved the world and wanted to serve the Lord and always wanted to preach the gospel in her own

En route to California, able Aimee Semple McPherson fixes a tire in 1918.



family, and to live the Christian life.

For years we never had a home, did not settle down anywhere, just went from place to place as Mother preached. Finally, God spoke to Mother and told her she could have a home, and she came here to Los Angeles under the direct leading of the Lord, who told her to build Angelus Temple.

"Lord, Take Us Through!"

I remember, though I was very small at the time, how we traveled over roads that were not improved, as they are now. You could not drive from the east to the west in just a few days—it took over a month to come to California—seemed like taking a trip around the world, and there were many difficulties in coming. The roads were rough, and many times muddy, and the car would get stuck. And Mother, who drove her car, would take portions of her clothing and tie them around the wheels, and get the car back on the road. Many times she would push the car. And I can remember how she prayed, "Lord, take us through!"

One time we came to a stream and the bridges were out. There was our car, right out in the middle of the stream, but Mother was going across because God had told us to go. And the Lord brought us through. The water was up through the floorboards of the car, but somehow the Lord kept that motor running. You couldn't do that with a modern car, but those old cars were built to do almost anything. We had no tires like those of today, big rubber treads; just cloth tires that did not last very long and it seemed that every rock would go through them.

No Simple Framework for Aimee

Mother traveled throughout the world preaching the gospel. Then, one day, God told her to build Angelus Temple. When Mother told people, "I am going to build a concrete and steel building unto God," they were amazed and said, "Why don't you just build a tabernacle—just a framework?" "No," Mother said, "I am going to build something permanent unto God, where the gospel can go forward."

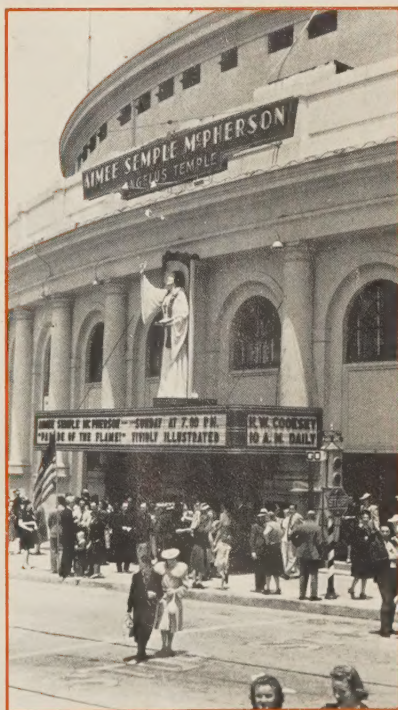
Angelus Temple was being built, as Mother traveled around the world, raising the money. It was hard for us children to let her go. Many times she would come in fresh from a campaign trip and start planning another, saying, "I must go to Denver! I must go to Salt Lake and to Chicago! I must go!" We did love her so. She was a real mother. She knew our little problems. When I was sick, there was no one like Mother. She would come in and place her hands on my brow, and would ask God to heal me, and the fever would go down as she prayed.

Such a beautiful building is Angelus Temple—not one like it anywhere in the world. The dome—unsupported here, with its beautiful clouds. My mother loved it and I know why she designed it that way. She always wanted to look up into the sky. She did not want to look down at this troubled world, but she wanted to look up there and to point you folks to the sky and to Christ, for that is where He is coming from.

And now, since Mother is gone, I am looking upward too. I am looking for

(Continued on p. 14)

Thousands came from miles around to see Foursquare founder Aimee Semple McPherson's illustrated sermons at Angelus Temple.



"In the face of many challenges and opportunities, we're learning to look up and trust!"

*—Revs. John and Penny Douglas
Foursquare Missionaries to Ecuador*

Together EC

30,000 EQUALS 20. Foursquare's Ecuadorian work began in 1956. For six years the Word was taught and the foundation for the national church was laid. Then, in '62, a nationwide crusade swept 30,000 into the kingdom. Many miracles testified to God's compassionate rule and—20 churches were established. Continued evangelism has since bolstered church growth.



John and Penny Douglas, Directors of the Guayaquil Foursquare Bible Institute, provide training and counseling for the leadership of this burgeoning work.

THE NEED. To underscore the need for training, it is important to understand what is happening through believers...many energetically preach the gospel to individuals, crowds and especially their family. These evangelists and other believers yearn to plumb the Word and share their discoveries.

THE FOCUS. The Douglasses focus on teaching worship, the Word and spiritual responsibility. John comments: "Teaching the principles of worship is growing into a significant ministry. For growing numbers, the extremes of formalism and emotionalism are being replaced by an understanding and appreciation of the true character of worshipping God.

"We also spend hours preparing lessons on the Word for our students. The future of the national church rests on how well they apply the Truth. In counseling, we encourage leadership to grow and

(Top row, left) The Douglas family. Through their work as Directors of the Guayaquil Bible Institute, John and Penny have learned to trust God and step forward.



(2nd row, left) Believers of all ages are eager to plumb the depths of God's Word and share their discoveries.



(3rd row, left) For a growing number of believers, worship which encounters God is displacing the extremes of formalism and emotionalism.

(3rd row, right) John and Penny work as a team speaking at camps, retreats and churches around the country. John spoke at this service held in the new sanctuary of the Santa Rosa Foursquare Church.



A PROFILE OF FOURSQUARE WORLD MINISTRIES ECUADOR

MISSIONS
INTERNATIONAL
4



(Top row, right) **WORSHIP** is a major topic in the Douglasses' teaching ministry. Here they lead institute students through the basics of this life-promoting practice.



(2nd row, right) The Douglasses spend hours preparing solid lessons from the Word. The future of the national church rests on how well its leadership understands and applies scriptural truths.



remain faithful. Some find spiritual responsibility very demanding, while others are tempted to forsake their calling for a secular education."

GROWING AND MINISTRY. The Douglasses have helped many grow during their ministry. But they, in turn, have grown through ministering. John shared this: "People, leaders, opportunities, problems...sometimes we almost feel overwhelmed. But we pray, trust Him, and put everything into His hands—He always meets our need. And we get stronger."

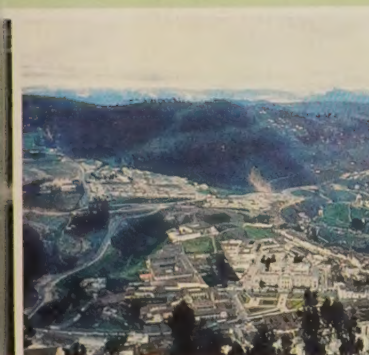
Serving simultaneously in Ecuador with the Douglasses are Jack and Aline Richey with Cherry, their daughter. Jack is Field Supervisor of the Ecuadorian Foursquare Church which has grown to 104 churches and meeting places currently.

Prayer & Action Focus

- Pray for continued vision and dedication in those called by God to minister.
- Pray that the opportunity for advanced training will open up to more pastors and workers.
- Pray for the Ecuadorian officials that the gospel may be preached and that the nation maintain peacefulness and stability.

Our success in Ecuador is based on the efforts of many who, like John and Penny, are learning to trust God and step forward. Your strong support helps confirm their faith as we win Ecuador for Christ...

Together!



FOURSQUARE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL HIDDEN PEOPLE

Foursquare Missions International—Reaching
100 Hidden People Groups by 1990.

They can be reached! You, your family, your Foursquare Church can have a vital part in accomplishing the task.

Your "loose change" given daily during 1984-1985 will speed the task along! You'll be helping to reach hidden people groups scattered around the world. Start now!

"... a family project for every home."

Each evening, individually or as a family, place your coins in a special container and dedicate them for reaching

unreached and hidden people. Pray for a group that God has laid on your heart that they will hear the good news of his love.

It is our commission to bring the gospel to places where the name of Christ has never been heard, so that "they who have no news of him will see, and they who never heard of him can understand."

TOGETHER WE ARE

*Reaching
the unreached!*

**ADVANCING
THROUGH THE
1980's
1990's
2000**

Give your loose change earmarked for Hidden People at your local Foursquare Church or send it to Foursquare Missions Intl.
1100 Glendale Bl., LA, CA 90026 • Canadian Address: 7895 Welsley Dr., Burnaby, BC, Canada V5E 3X4

Buddhist convert seeks a miracle for
abled body. We can trust the Lord
for her healing.

Christ has used this 12-year-old girl in a
healing ministry in Sri Lanka. This was taken
immediately after her water baptism.

Besao youth from the mountains of the
Philippines demonstrate a tribal dance.



Our Loose Change Can Help These Hidden People

MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

4

Idols Burned in the Philippines

The Gary and Johnell Loop Report

PUBLIC BURNING. The Bontoc tribal village of Besao is located high in the mountains of Northern Luzon. Its people are classified among the world's "Hidden Peoples." Foursquare workers started a church there and have ministered for two years. Now they are seeing encouraging results.

Gary comments, "There are now five Bible studies per week, and 60-80 in the youth group. In addition, something tremendous happened this year. Some young people attended our first youth camp and publicly burned their idols to declare Jesus' Lordship."

A STARTLING REACTION. The city of Vigan has been known as "The City That Stones Evangelicals." Lately, however, evangelicals have witnessed a startling new reaction to the gospel—CONVERSION. There are now two churches and one meeting place in Vigan. Recently, a public water baptismal service went unharassed as many gave public testimony to their faith in Jesus Christ.

STEADY GROWTH. During the past year, Northern Luzon has evidenced steady church growth. Membership is up 30% over last year, and missions giving

has increased significantly. But the youth camp program is the focal point of real excitement: last year 200 attended youth camp; this year—260!

HARD TIMES AND A FAITHFUL GOD. Last year's drought inflicted terrible losses on many. As a consequence, church incomes are suffering and many pastors are in need. God is able to meet everyone's need, so please continue to pray for continued provision.

OPEN DOORS/FEW WORKERS. God is opening doors for new churches, but we need pastors. Recently, a young man from another town visited one of our evangelistic meetings and was saved. Through him, we now have a chance to pioneer a new church in his area. Many more churches need to be established on the eastern side of Luzon. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth laborers.

Christ Uses 12-Year-Old to Heal in Sri Lanka

The Leslie Keegel Report

"I JUST DID WHAT THE PASTOR DID." Dayani Padma Liyanage, a 12-year-old Buddhist convert, accepted Christ at the beginning of this year when Leslie pioneered a work in a village called Rathupaswala. Leslie shares,

"About 20 people were saved, this girl and her parents being among them. Shortly thereafter, we left the country. When we returned, 12 people told us about how Dayani had 'healed' them. Some had been afflicted with asthma, while others had suffered from long-term illnesses.

"When I asked Dayani to tell me what had happened, she said, 'Pastor, when I

saw you lay hands on my parents, they were healed. I thought I'd do exactly as you did. When I spoke Jesus' name and put my hands on them, they were healed.' " Through Dayani's testimony and ministry, people of her village are seeing that Jesus is a living Lord. New believers are encouraged, and many are being saved.

CURSE BROKEN. The Buddhist village of Narangwala had never heard the gospel. When it was preached, a 20-year-old woman asked for healing. She suffered from a stomach ailment the doctors had diagnosed as incurable. Her condition was deteriorating rapidly. When prayer began, demons manifested themselves, and it was learned that she had swallowed a charm three years earlier. The ministers claimed Matthew 16:19 (whatever is loosed on earth is loosed in heaven), and the curse of the charm was broken! Today, she is perfectly well, and has become a believer, along with her entire family.

PARALYZED! For several months, meetings have been held at a government housing project in a town called Yakkala. One night, an elderly woman attended out of curiosity and accepted Christ.

Leslie remembers, "She invited us to her home and we met her husband. He was totally paralyzed and mute. We prayed for him and demons manifested themselves, so we cast them out and the man was made whole. Soon after this, their entire family accepted Christ. Later, two were baptized in the Spirit."

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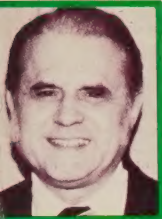
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Cox photos



At Olympia, one can see the statue bases for "Zanes", paid for with fines cheaters were assessed.

Who Really Won at the Olympics?

An inscription found at Isthmia's stadium claims athletes came from "all the inhabited world" to participate there. The coequal Greek games constituted what have been called "the four great festivals of the Crown," not because of relationship to royalty but because winners received wreaths or garlands rather than material rewards. Paul wrote, "...they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (I Cor. 9:25, KJV).

The 1984 Summer Olympics ended last month and contestants have returned to 142 nations, not "all the inhabited world," by any means, but to far more than Olympia, Isthmia, Delphi, or Nemea ever hosted.

Rather than vegetable "crowns," contemporary winners prize medals of bronze, silver, and gold, though the first place medals really are 90% silver! Another deviation from Olympia involves the modern fiction of the flame and torch which appeared for the first time in 1932.

Winners in 1984 hardly command the celebrity status of ancient victors. Cities

breached their walls to welcome the triumphant homecomings of winners with spectacular parades. And why not? Cities which could boast winners at crown festivals had no need of walls for defense! Sparta and other towns honored victors with the privilege of fighting beside their kings in battle, thus conjoining garlands and diadems. Athens offered winners free food for life at the Prytaneon in the agora. Some hometowns provided substantial monetary rewards, belying any myth of amateurism in the ancient contests.

Some athletes went home in disgrace. Paul probably had such cheaters in mind in II Tim. 2:5: "An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules" (RSV). At Olympia, outside the stadium, I studied a row of statue bases for "Zanes"—images of Zeus erected from fines levied against those who broke the rules. Some contestants got away with cheating, like Nero who was crowned even though he did not even finish the race he "won." He intimidated the umpires at the Bema (judgment seat, reward podium). But when believers stand before the Bema of Christ, each reward will be exactly according to one's works (II Cor. 5:10).

The greatest winners returning home from 1984's Los Angeles Olympics are those converted to Jesus Christ through evangelistic efforts like Foursquare youth's "Run For His Glory!" Countless numbers who came from 142 nations

Dr. Raymond Cox nears the finish line at the Delphi stadium.



undoubtedly enrolled in the Christian race. And we may expect them to win others to Jesus in their home environments, exactly as did those converts Paul and his party evangelized at the Isthmian Games of 51 A.D. when they took the gospel home to "all the inhabited world" then.

Crowns twisted out of olive, laurel, pine, palm, fir branches, ivy or celery perished long ago. But in eternity, believers will cast crowns they won before the Lamb upon the throne. 4

Dr. Cox is pastor of the Salem, Oregon, Foursquare Church.

Janice Pedersen photo

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Do You Have Old Foursquare Magazines?

Thank you so much for your response to our last notice concerning missing Foursquare magazines. We find there are now only 23 issues missing since 1917 under the names of the *Bridal Call*, *Bridal Call Foursquare*, *Foursquare Crusader*, and *Foursquare Magazine*. If you have access to any of the following copies, please consider sending them to: Dr. Rolf K. McPherson, President, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

1917-June, Aug, Oct, Nov, Dec; 1919-June, July; 1920-Feb; 1922-Aug; 1924-Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, April, July; 1935-Mar 20, Apr 10, Dec 18, Dec 25; 1939-Oct 18 and 25; 1942-Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov.

Against All Odds (cont.)

do when God proved to shoulder the load.

Today we see a progressive thinker in the President's chair, ready to implement any modern means by which the spreading of the gospel can be facilitated. A computer sits in most of the International offices, by action of Dr. McPherson, for word processing, typesetting, accounting, mailing labels, missionary budget analysis, etc. Use of video is also being promoted.

"Upon completing a two-year course at the Southern California Radio Institute while a young man," Dr. McPherson shared, "the officials said something I think is very wise. 'You have learned a certain amount here,' they said, 'but you have really learned how to learn.'" Dr. McPherson has certainly learned "how to learn." The changing times have not left him behind.

Under his administration, the number of Foursquare churches in North America increased from 410 in 1944 to 1,148 in 1983, with a total of 9,925 throughout the world.

As far as hobbies are concerned, Dr. McPherson used to be known for his love of model airplanes which he would fly by remote control. More recently, however, his interest has shifted to his own home computer. For exercise, he mentioned that he tries to spend an hour every day working in the yard, and he and his wife, Lorna De, often attend outings with the Angelus Temple congregation.

Many organizations are influenced by a strict, impersonal President. This is not true of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Dr. Rolf K. McPherson is not merely a President, but a man with a heart—a heart for the organization

and for the world. Because of this, one cannot attempt to focus on the person of Dr. McPherson without considering the whole of the movement. It is his life.

I close this article on what I consider to be the most potent, revealing statement of the entire interview with our President:

"Somehow, God has given me the responsibility of this kind: to manage, to govern with a heart and a 'blood,' as such, to get totally involved. To me, it is personal loss if we lose, and it is great victory if we gain." 4

Oklahoma Bride (cont.)

Unknown to her was her future romance with the son of Aimee Semple McPherson. "I can still remember hearing him say, 'May I get you a ring now?' I replied, 'I want to know I'm acceptable to your mother.'" The "want to" was fulfilled and at Christmas of 1930, the announcement of their engagement was made.

The Years

Lorna De and Rolf were married in July of 1931. Their first home was the historical landmark house located on the corner of Lemoyne Street and Park Avenue, the beautiful parsonage of Angelus Temple. The newlyweds moved in with Rolf's mother, to combine home life and the ministry of Angelus Temple. Two daughters were born to Rolf and Lorna De: Kay Sterling and Marleen.

A graduate now of LIFE Bible College and qualified to teach and serve in ministry of music, Mrs. McPherson became a vital part of Angelus Temple's church life. Her dedication was her joy. The adjustments in family culture and home life became possible because her zeal for the Lord was deep and strong.

There were expressions of sadness on her face when she told about the death of their daughter, Marleen, who died at the age of 24 as mother of a baby boy. Today, the 1980s represent her role as a grandmother and great-grandmother to the families of Kay and Marleen.

"This is the life He gave me!" It was said with dignity and graceful verbalism. Mrs. McPherson, in this special year of celebration that honors their 40 years of headship in the Foursquare organization, is a voice to speak about the ministry of the Kingdom of God. When asked about the future of Angelus Temple and Foursquare ministry, she spoke with the clear sound of a prophetess: "Revival and renewal and expansion!"

Their home is in the proximity of Angelus Temple, a modest place with pieces of furniture from the parsonage where they lived as bride and groom. Memorabilia of those beginning years will never lose the charm or distinction of living as the wife of Rolf K. McPherson.

Command Performance (con.)
that glorious day, and I pray it will be soon.

We Are Going On

But in the meantime, we have been given a task to do. We cannot do like some people did in the early days, who thought the time of the Lord's coming was so close they should sell everything they had or give it away. They then went out and sat under a tree and waited for the Lord to come. The Scripture does not tell us to do that, but to "occupy until I come."

We are going on. We are not going to stop working for God, but we are going to press on, going to "occupy until He comes." We are going to preach this glorious gospel until the sky parts and the Lord takes us home. I believe some of us may live to see that day of His coming in the clouds of Glory.

No Man Built This Work

This is the *Command Performance* today. The Lord has commanded, and students, you have come to the Bible college to learn the Word of God. No man built this Bible college—the Lord built it. The Lord sent in the money from all over the world to make it a reality.

So, today, you, like I, have no reason to fear in your great task that is before you. We just can't fail. I feel so weak and so humble sometimes I can't do the task before me, but we can't let down. We have to throw our shoulders back and lift up our heads and let the Lord work.

LIFE Bible College was established and thousands have come to study the Word of God, saying, "Sister, you can't travel all over the world and be in every city at once, so we will study and prepare and go out and help you to preach this glorious gospel to the ends of the world."

And so the call that God had given Mother to preach the gospel all over the world has been fulfilled. She has preached it here and preached it there herself, and now she has left others to carry on. I believe, Torch Bearers, the name for your class is very fitting at this time, for you are to help carry on the torch of this glorious gospel.

I count it a privilege to be in the position I am in. It is a great honor—one I hope I shall never take advantage of, but will do the task the Lord has entrusted to me.

Lord, we ask that you will be a little nearer us in this hour of great need and our great suffering here in Angelus Temple. And, Lord, give us power to carry this torch. Quicken our spirits, that we will never let the fire go out in our lives, but that the torch may blaze over a lost and dying world. 4

Excerpts taken from "Command Performance," The Foursquare Magazine, December, 1944.

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WORDS of RENEWAL



As you have seen, in this special issue commemorating our President's 40th year in office, how the Lord's hand has been upon the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Included in this direction has been words of prophecy given by the Lord to the Foursquare Church. Allow the three words of prophecy featured below to renew your heart as we strive to fulfill our Lord's call.

THE END IS NOT YET

(Greater ministry to come)

"No, the end is not yet," says the Lord. "Mighty things are in store for you, greater than you have ever seen. O little children, bow yourselves, humble yourselves before the Lord and I will show you marvelous and great things to come, greater than thou canst conceive of. O might I speak to thee in a way that thou wouldst know and feel and go deeper yet, for there are higher heights and deeper depths to be obtained. The Shekinah is overshadowing you, and His power and His blessing shall be near you. Stay near, O stay near to the throne."

—Given by Aimee Semple McPherson, Second Coming Crusader Rally, 1936

SLAY THE GIANTS

(Deliverance from bondage)

The Lord would say, "Take your stance! Take your footing and hear my words. Upon your tongue even now is placed a living sword, My Word. There are giants that stand before you; even giants of fear, of doubt, of bondage, of oppression, of depression, of affliction—even those things from which I would now deliver you.

"Child, speak now that word I have given you concerning the giant opposing you. Now, I say NOW, speak My Word against that adversary, and the Lord your God will confirm His Word in your presence. He will slay your adversary before you, and He shall move you forward in victory. So now, lift your voices and speak My Word; slay the giants with the sword of your mouth, speaking My Word."

—Given by Dr. Jack Hayford, International Foursquare Convention, April 21, 1983

INVEST IN THE GREEN FIELDS

(The Great Commission)

"I am calling and would send forth My Church into fields that are green," says the Lord. "You will consider that these fields are not white and ready to harvest. You will question the advisability of going into these fields because they are green. They show no promise immediately of harvest.

"But hear the Lord of the Lord and know that so quickly, upon your investment in those parcelled fields that are green, with green souls, the Son of Righteousness will come and cause that field to turn white, ready to harvest. You will put in your sickle. You will draw in great sheaves. You will be so taken with the labor that at the time you least expect it, the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, the Lord will return in his glory, and great will be the harvest. Hesitate not to invest in the green fields."

—Given by Rev. Herman Rosenberger, 9th Missionary Cabinet Session, April 15, 1982

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